

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims: Please amend the claims as follows:

We claim:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for the detection or isolation of antigen-specific T lymphocytes comprising detecting the expression of CD154 using a CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising detecting or isolating CD4⁺ or CD8⁺ T lymphocytes which express said CD154.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~comprising detecting or isolating~~ wherein the detected T lymphocyte cells comprise inflammatory, anti-inflammatory, regulatory or suppressive T lymphocytes which express said CD154.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A method for the detection or isolation of antigen-specific T lymphocyte cells in a suspension following activation with an antigen, comprising contacting said suspension with a CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154, and determining intracellular or extracellular CD154 levels, wherein cells having CD154 are detected or separated.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, comprising detecting or isolating CD4⁺ or CD8⁺ T lymphocytes which express said CD154.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein said CD40/CD154 system inhibitor is an anti-CD40 antibody[[5]] or an anti-CD154 antibody, ~~substances blocking CD40 or CD154, a secretion inhibitor or an endocytosis inhibitor.~~

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, comprising detecting said intracellular or extracellular CD154 levels in or on vital cells.

Claim 10. (Provisionally Withdrawn, Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising isolating or separating T lymphocytes lacking a defined cytokine pattern ~~are isolated and/or separated.~~

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Provisionally Withdrawn) An antigen-specific T-lymphocyte cell detected or isolated using the method of claim 4.

Claim 14. (Provisionally Withdrawn) A method for the preventive or causal treatment of infectious, allergic, inflammatory, malignant or autoimmune disease comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the antigen-specific T-lymphocyte cell of claim 13.